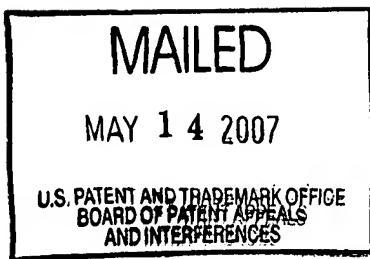


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

---

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

---



Ex parte ROBERT SHEFFIELD  
and  
EILEEN GOULET

---

Application 10/667,491

---

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

---

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on April 2, 2007. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being electronically returned to the examiner. The matter requiring attention prior to docketing is identified below:

An examination of the Image File Wrapper (IFW) reveals that a Reply Brief was filed on December 29, 2006. There is nothing in the IFW to

suggest that the examiner considered such Reply Brief. A determination as to whether the Reply Brief should be entered must be made. It should be noted that one of the Patent and Trademark Office's databases (PALM) reflects that the Reply Brief was noted on February 20, 2007.

Accordingly, it is

**ORDERED** that the application is remanded to the examiner:

1. for consideration of the Reply Brief filed December 29, 2006, if appropriate;
2. for having a copy of such consideration scanned into the IFW; and
3. such further action as may be appropriate.

**BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

By: Patrick J. Nolan  
PATRICK J. NOLAN  
Deputy Chief Appeals Administrator  
(571) 272-9797

PJN:psb

Thomas E. Anderson  
Hunton & Williams LLP  
1900 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109